

REMARKS

This submission is in response to the Official Action of May 17, 2007 and the personal interview of July 25, 2007.

At the outset and before addressing the rejection raised in the Official Action, the Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 4, 10, 14, 24, 27 and 29 to recite the claimed invention with more particularity and to obviate the rejection herein. The Applicant have also added new dependent claims 51-65. The support for the foregoing claim amendments is provided in the application as filed on page 20, line 1 through page 22, line 2. The Applicants have further amended claims 16-23 to provide editorial corrections consistent with amended independent claim 14. The Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter has been entered via the foregoing claim amendments.

Claims 1, 4, 10, 14, 16-24, 27 and 29 have been amended; claims 13 and 44-50 have been cancelled; and new claims 51-65 have been added. As a result, claims 1-12, 14-43 and 51-65 are pending in this application.

§102 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-17 and 19-50 were rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), as allegedly anticipated by Cordero, *et al.* (U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2001/0044339) (hereinafter "Cordero").

In the personal interview, the Examiner indicated that the claimed invention as now recited in independent Claims 1, 4, 10, 14, 24, 27 and 29 distinguishes over the prior art of record, including Cordero.

Consequently, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of independent claims 1, 4, 10, 14, 24, 27 and 29 pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 102(b). The Applicants further respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of dependent claim 2-3, 5-9, 11-12 (claim 13 cancelled), 15-17, 19-23, 25-26, 28, and 30-43 (claims 44-50 cancelled) based at least on their respective dependencies, whether direct or indirect, from independent claims 1, 4, 10, 14, 24, 27 and 29.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claim 18 was rejected pursuant to 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), as allegedly unpatentable over Cordero in view of Zucker, *et al.* (U.S. Pat. No. 6,468,155) (hereinafter “Zucker”).

In the personal interview, the Examiner indicated that the claimed invention as now recited in independent Claims 1, 4, 10, 14, 24, 27 and 29 distinguishes over the prior art of record, including Cordero and Zucker.

Consequently, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of dependent claim 18 based at least on its dependency from independent claim 14.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Applicants respectfully submit that the claims are in condition for allowance, and request earnestly notification to that effect. The Applicants invite the Examiner to telephone the undersigned, Applicants' attorney, at 516-203-7270 to facilitate the allowance of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,
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By their Representatives,

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Date August 6, 2007

By / Alexander G. Vodovozov /
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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on this ^{2nd}_{6th} day of August 2007.

PETER REBUFFONI

Name

Signature